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Edw. Walton



THE  
PRACTICAL  
HORSE FARRIER;

OR,

The Traveller's Pocket Companion.

SHEWING

THE BEST METHOD TO PRESERVE THE HORSE  
IN HEALTH;

AND, LIKEWISE,

*THE CURE OF THE MOST PROMINENT DISEASES  
TO WHICH THIS NOBLE ANIMAL IS SUBJECT,  
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.*

THE WHOLE BEING THE RESULT OF NEARLY FORTY YEARS'  
EXPERIENCE, WITH AN EXTENSIVE PRACTICE.

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To assist great Nature in her wond'rous plan,  
Should be the study and pursuit of man.

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BY WILLIAM CARVER, FARRIER;  
OF NEW-YORK.

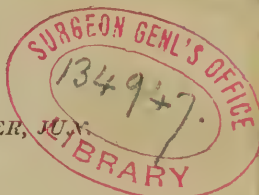
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NORRISTOWN, Pa.

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1818.



EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, to wit :

Be it Remembered, That on the twelfth day of December, in the forty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1818, M'Carty & Davis, of the said district, have deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof they claim as proprietors, in the words following, to wit :

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* L. S. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
“ The Practical Horse Farrier ; or, The Traveller’s Pocket Companion : Shewing the best method to preserve the Horse in health—and, likewise, the cure of the most prominent diseases to which this noble animal is subject, in the United States of America. The whole being the result of nearly forty years’ experience, with an extensive practice.— To assist great Nature in her wond’rous plan, should be the study and pursuit of man. By William Carver, farrier, of New-York.”

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, “ An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned.” And also to the act, entitled, “ An Act supplementary to an act, entitled, An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.”

D. CALDWELL,  
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE author of the following small treatise, is aware that his work will meet with objections, on account of there having been many large volumes published on farriery, by men of science, who were acquainted with the dead languages. It was on that ground that he thought the undertaking more necessary, as the greater part of those that are owners of the noble animal, the horse, are, like himself, unacquainted with the Greek or Latin. And he believes that the anatomy of the horse, as well as the human body, can be as well understood and defined, by the language of our own mother tongue, as by the dead languages : Yes, and that those languages

only serve the purpose of those who wish to keep the world in ignorance, and profit by the credulity of others. For my part, I believe that neither the Greeks or Latins taught their pupils the languages of any other nations : at least I never saw an author, that informed me that they did so.

It is probable, by this time, the reader may think that I am an enemy to science, and a friend to ignorance—but the case is otherwise. I should feel myself happy to see science flourish, stripped of her garb of mystery and quackery : and if the Veterinary College of London had pursued this laudable method, Mr. Blaine, and his cotemporaries in that college, would have deserved immortal praise : But their books are at too high a price for the common reader to purchase—and too voluminous to be read—and too obscure to be understood, but by those who have had a classical education.

I have been an eye witness to the dreadful effects of the ignorance of those who have undertaken to doctor the horse, both in this country and England. A coachman who lived with a gentleman in this city, undertook to bleed one of

his employer's horses in the mouth, and, as there is a large artery that comes from the heart into the mouth, the man had cut that artery asunder, and could not stop the blood ; and the horse had continued to bleed for two hours, before he was brought to me, and it was with great difficulty that I stopped it : and believe that the horse could not have lived ten minutes longer, if the blood had not stopped—as the poor animal was struck all over with a cold sweat, and trembled like a-leaf.

One more instance I will relate, which is, that a groom belonging to a gentleman in this city, also, undertook to clean the yard of his master's horse—in doing which, he drew down the yard beyond its natural extremity, which overstrained the leading tendons, or nerves of the yard, like a violin string that is overdrawn, and has lost its elasticity, so that the animal had not power to draw it back to its place. When the man brought the horse to me, he said, Mr. Carver, what is the matter with this horse? I told him immediately, that he had forced down the yard with his hand, beyond its natural position : He at first denied the fact—but on my in-

sisting on its being the case, he confessed, and begged that I would not inform his master how it had happened : by applying restringent medicines, I brought the yard to perform its natural functions. It was a judicious remark of Lord Pembroke, when he said—" Any gentleman who permitted his groom to administer any thing more to his horses, than messes or warm gruel, would soon find himself on foot."

I am certain that there are persons in this city, who undertake to doctor the horse, that cannot either read or write their own names—and consequently know nothing of the quality or power of medicine ; and I have seen them apply a restringent, when they should have applied a relaxative : In consequence of this ignorance, they cannot consult the state of the blood of the horse, which is the first thing to be considered, in all kinds of fevers. And I furthermore believe, that they know not where to find the pulse veins—or how many times the pulse beats in a minute, in order to judge of the state of the animal, they pretend to cure.

I have read a great number of authors, who have attempted to describe the method, or best

manner of shoeing the horse ; and they have given what was, in their opinions, the form and the shape of the shoe, that should be placed on the foot ; but I have found by long experience, that they, for want of practice, have been, almost all of them, very erroneous : the author that comes nearest to the point, so as to preserve the foot, is Clark. As shoeing the horse is a most essential point to be considered, I have attempted to describe the best method that I have discovered, in thirty years' practice, in the chapter on shoeing : and this I think the more necessary, as I have witnessed the dreadful, and the most evil consequences, of horses being placed in the hands of unexperienced shoers, in this city. I have known smiths to open shops, and undertake to shoe horses, who never had shod a horse in their lives ; and the result has been, that the feet have been ruined, and the horses have been obliged to be turned to pasture, in order that nature might replace the injured foot. The most celebrated authors, and judges of horses, have considered the knowledge of the foot, and the manner of shoeing, as very essential points : Bracken has said—no foot, no horse ; and Mr.

Blaine, of the Veterinary College of London, says—that he would not trust many of the pretended shoers, to drive a single nail in the foot of his horse. And, for my own part, I would not permit three fourths of the smiths, of this city, to take off a single shoe from my horse's foot, was I not present at the time.

I presume the public will consider, that I have not written this small treatise, from a view of deriving any pecuniary advantage, as I am now arrived at an advanced period of life ; but that my only object is that of being useful to those who are in possession of that useful animal, the horse. And as there are thousands in this city, and in the United States, whose whole dependence for the support of themselves and families, is on the health, and labour that they derive from the horse : and gentlemen who travel, are often retarded on their journey, owing to the misconduct of those that take charge of their horses—or by the smiths that shoe them : I therefore believe, that this small pocket companion, will enable the traveller to set both the groom and the smith right, when they have committed errors, or prevent their committing any.



It is probable that this publication will be criticised on, and in a measure condemned, by those that profess themselves judges of orthography and grammar, but, the only apology that I shall make, is, that the common reader in general will understand my meaning, or ideas, and this is grammar and orthography sufficient for them. I know that Bailey, Sheridan, and Johnson, have told us that each syllable must be spelt with such and such letters and vowels ; and that they must be pronounced in such and such a manner, with such a tone of voice ; but I find, that what is called grammar in one century, is condemned in an other—as a proof of this, let any one refer to books that were published one or two centuries past—let them read Sidney on Government, or Fox's Martyrs, or any old authors, and they will find, that the language or grammar materially differs from that of the present day : a word spoken that can be understood, is far better than ten thousand words spoken in a language that cannot be understood. Had I been acquainted with the Greek or Latin languages, or terms of art and obscurity of expression, I should have avoided them as much

as possible. I am more desirous of being intelligible to the meanest capacity, than ambitious of writing in what is called a polished style, to which I make no pretensions—on this account I expect indulgence from the candid reader. It will be found that I have given but few receipts, and those that are given have been proved by experience. I have been always opposed to giving a variety, or complication of medicines, either to man or beast; for, should not few medicines be found to relieve the patient in a short time, it is better to leave nature to struggle with infirmities, as she at times performs wonders: this I have proved by the horse—likewise by my own family, as I am my own family physician, and have been for more than twenty years past, and, during that time, I have not paid five dollars to any one of the faculty to attend them, although they (as is common to mankind) have had their share of sickness. If man would but take the trouble to examine and think for himself, he might then be his own physician, and save himself a great deal of expense. I would recommend every father of a family to provide himself with Buchan's Domestic

Medicine, and the Edinburgh Dispensatory.—The assistance of these books, and study, will, in most cases, supersede the necessity of employing a physician.

Although there are a great number of horses kept in this city, I do not find one citizen that makes the economy or welfare of the horse so much their study that they might examine this work, or to whom I might dedicate it. I therefore dedicate it to the public at large, leaving it to judge of its merits, and my experience or veracity. I have given in the appendix a most valuable receipt for the pleurisy, pain in the back or side, for the human species. This receipt I have communicated to many gentlemen of the faculty, which they have proved to have the desired effect.

WILLIAM CARVER.

*New York, November 3d, 1818.*



## CHAPTER I.

*Some general directions, in regard to the management and care of Horses.*

THE Horse, by nature, is doomed to roam at large in the woods or fields, and, while remaining in this state, his wants are easily supplied, and his diseases are few ; but, when brought into a domesticated state, his diseases are many, and his wants are great, and he requires the fostering hand of care and diligence, to keep and preserve him in health. It should be observed to give horses as few medicines as possible, and not follow the ridiculous custom of frequently bleeding and purging, when the horse is in perfect health.

Proper dressing, feeding, and exercise, will alone cure many disorders, and prevent most. Proper care should be taken to procure good sweet hay and oats, for, should either of these articles be either musty or foul, they will affect his lungs, and at times cause him to be broken winded ; and, what is commonly called shorts or bran, is frequently in a state of fermentation before it is given to the horse, and this is what I apprehend to be the cause of so many horses dying with the worms, or bots. If a small portion of clean cut straw be given,

either with oats or bran, it will have a tendency to eradicate those insects.

All stables should be ventilated, so as to admit a free and constant circulation of fresh air ; for without this, the horse is constantly breathing, or taking into his stomach or lungs, the foul air that arises from the dung, urine, or the perspiration that flies from the body of the horse ; and, when the stable is crowded with horses, the effluvia must arise to a high degree, which, of course, will give rise to the most malignant fevers, and also chronick complaints.

Having visited many stables in this city, I have found many stalls where horses have stood, in their dung, to the thickness of six or seven inches, which I could attribute to nothing, but the indolence of those that had the care of horses committed to them. And I have likewise observed that horses, standing in this situation, have fallen back in their stalls as far as their halters would permit ; and this was done, in order that the poor animal might escape the fume that was constantly arising and flying into his nostrils, every time that he drew his breath. I have given this hint, in order that the owners and lovers of horses might attend to this, and have the neglect remedied. .

All stables should admit of a sufficient quantity of light, as nature has provided this for the benefit of both man and beast. All horses, standing in dark stables, are liable to have their sight affected ;

as a sudden transition, from a state of total darkness, to the brilliancy of that of the sun, at noon-day, will have a powerful effect upon the optics of the eye, and will cause excessive pain, and probably, in time, the total loss of sight. As to the custom that is prevailing in this city, in regard to the blanketing of horses, and driving them with the blankets on their bodies through rain and snow, must certainly be pernicious to the health of the animal—as the labour that they perform will cause a perspiration, and consequently the pores of the skin are more open than they are while remaining in a state of inactivity ; therefore, the water that is contained in the blanket must be absorbed into the system of the horse, which, according to reason, must make the horse liable to colds, and stiff limbs, or what is commonly called founder. If nature, that is complete in her works, had destined the horse to wear blankets, she would have sent him covered with them. When the horse is standing in the stable, if he must have a blanket, it should be a light one, and not two or three at one time, with a broad roller girted tight, as grooms will tell us in order to take up the belly, as they call it, which prevents the expansion of the lungs, and causes the animal to breathe with difficulty.—Blankets should be taken along with the traveller, and thrown on when the horse stops on the road.

Common observation teaches us that nature, at proper seasons of the year, designed the pasture

for the horse, and the horse for the pasture ; therefore, if the horse could possibly be spared for two or three weeks, in the months of May or June, he ought of course to be turned out to roam at large.

A proper degree of exercise is of the utmost consequence, to keep the horse in perfect health and vigour ; but a horse should never be rode hard, or put on violent exercise, when his belly is full of feed or water—move him gently at first, and he will naturally mend his pace. Many diseases are brought on for want of proper exercise. I have seen horses that have stood in their stalls for two or three months, without being exercised at all, and, by this neglect, they have fell victims to the lock-jaw, and farcy. Nature demands exercise, as well for the animal as the human species, in order to keep the blood and fluids in circulation.

It must certainly be obvious to every one of common understanding, that great care should be taken, that after a horse has had violent exercise, or come off a hard journey, that he cools not too fast—that he drinks no cold water, and that he is not washed with cold water, which is too often practised in this country, by those that have the care of horses, in order to save the labour of rubbing and cleaning of them ; and it should likewise be observed, that their feet should not be permitted to stand in a damp or wet stall, which will have a tendency to bring on a founder.



## CHAPTER II.

### *On Bleeding, Purging, &c.*

THOSE horses that have been standing long in the stable, and have been full fed, require at times to be bled and physicked, especially when their eyes look heavy, dull, and inflamed, as also when they feel hotter than usual, and mangle or waste their hay. But the cases that chiefly require bleeding, are, colds, fevers of most kinds, falls, bruises, hurts of the eyes, and all inflammatory disorders. All horses should be bled by measure, in order to know the quantity that is taken away—two or three quarts is always enough at one time, but must be repeated in case of the pleurisy, which may be known by the blackness of the blood, which should be carefully examined, when cold, to see whether black, florid, sizzly, &c. The neck is the safest place to bleed, or in what is commonly called the jugular vein: and it should be observed to bleed near the head, and not, as is frequently done, down the middle of the neck, which will often cause a swelled neck, if not a mortification in the vein. During the course of my practice, I have been obliged to take off a part of the jugular vein of the neck of two horses, owing to their having been struck too

low down the neck, when bled by unexperienced hands ; and to perform what is commonly called netting the vein, which is done by tying the vein with a silk thread, at a certain distance, in two places, so as to admit of the cutting away, between the two threads, that part of the vein that was in a state of mortification ; and, by this method, I saved the lives of both the horses. All blood should be drawn from the part where there is least danger, which is the vein I have described, and not on the thigh vein, or the corinett of the foot, or the mouth. All blood flows from the heart, let it be taken from what part of the body it may ; but, in case of a shoulder sprain, I have found it beneficial to bleed in what is called the plate vein, which is a large vein on the inside of the fore legs ; and, in case of a founder, I have drawn blood from the toes of the fore feet.

The first purge that is given to a horse should be mild, in order to know his constitution. It is a mistake, that if a purge, properly prepared, does not work, according to expectation, the horse will be injured by it. Although it may not pass by stool, it may operate, and be more efficacious as an alterative, to purify the blood : and it often passes by urine, or other secretions. Horses that fail of their stomach, whether it proceeds from too full feeding, or engendered crudities, and indigested matter, should have a mild purge or two. It should be remembered, that a horse is purged with diffi-

culty—that all physick generally lies twenty-four hours in the guts, before it begins to work off; and, that the tract of bowels it has to pass through, is about thirty yards, which lay horizontally. If mercurial physick is given, care should be taken that it be well prepared, and warm clothing and great circumspection are then required. All purges should be given in the morning; but the horse should have a warm mess or two the day before, in order to relax his bowels; and, if he has a mess in the morning, before the ball is given, it will be so much the better—and, about three hours after taking the ball, he should have another mess given him, of scalded bran or shorts. Early the next morning give him another mess—and let his water be warm, with a handful of bran or shorts squeezed in it; but if he refuses warm water, he must be indulged to have it cold. He should be properly clothed, and rode gently about; and this should be done two or three times in the day, unless he purges violently, then once or twice will be sufficient—at night give him a feed of dry oats. But, should the physick continue to operate too long, give him the following drink: Take half a pint of brandy, one ounce of liquid laudanum, and one ounce of aniseeds, finely powdered, to be put in one pint of good ale. If he refuses all kinds of food, of an ordinary nature, let him be tried with two quarts of wheat: this I have tried with good effect. By this means I once saved the life of a nobleman's

horse in England, that had been over purged by his coachman, and had not eat one mouthful for three days. I shall omit giving a variety of receipts for purging balls, and only give one that I have proved to answer all the purposes to which it was intended, as a common physick, and which I have continued to administer for thirty years past. And when the rules that I have laid down were attended to, in regard to giving the messes and water, not five balls, out of one hundred, have failed to purge the horse sufficiently.

*To make what is commonly called a Coarse Physic,  
or Three Balls for a Horse.*

Take four ounces of succotrine aloes, two ounces of fresh jalap, two ounces of powdered ginger, two ounces of cream of tartar, and add thirty drops of oil of aniseed, with as much buckthorn syrup, or molasses, as will form it into a paste—divide, and let each ball weigh three ounces and a half.—When only one ball is wanted, take only the third part of all the above named ingredients.

Observe, that when the horse is to undergo a coarse physick, or take three balls, that six or eight days interval of time, should be given between each dose, or it will injure what is generally called the mucus, or lining of the guts.

When a horse loses his appetite for some days, after purging, it will be necessary to give a warm stomach drink, made of an infusion of chamomile

flowers, aniseeds and saffron, and half an ounce of asafœtida. This infusion may be made in one quart of ale, with a small quantity of honey, in order to make it palatable.

When balls are given, they should be of an oval shape, and not exceed the size of a pullet's egg; and, when the dose is large, it should be divided into two, and they should be dipt in oil, to make them slip down the easier.

As I have given my experience, in regard to purging the horse, I will now proceed in regard to clysters, with a few remarks and cautions.

Let it be observed, that before the administering of emollient clysters, in costive disorders, a small hand, well oiled, should be passed up the fundament, in order to bring away the hardened dung, that would be an obstacle to the clyster's passage. Author's have differed, with regard to the apparatus to give the clysters with: some have preferred a pipe and bladder, to the syringe; but I have for many years used the syringe. It should be observed not to give more than two quarts of a clyster at one time, as an overcharge will cause it to return too quick; but it should be often repeated, and more particularly when a quick passage is wanted.

*To prepare an Opening Clyster.*

Take two quarts of water, and stir into it a handful of wheat flour or oatmeal, let it be boiled, then add half a pint of molasses, half a pint of neat's foot oil, and a handful of common salt.

*For a Restricting Clyster.*

Take of oak bark two ounces, boil it in two quarts of water, till one is nearly consumed, pour off, and dissolve in it four ounces of diascordium, to which add one ounce of liquid laudanum, and a pint of port wine.

## CHAPTER III.

### *Of Colds.*

THE source of the generality of fevers, coughs, and many other disorders, arise from taking cold; both in men and horses. When this is the case, the pores and outlets of the skin, which, in a state of health, is constantly breathing out a fine fluid, like steam arising from hot water; but, when the horse has taken cold, these steams and perspirable matter are deprived of a free passage through them, and are hindered from going off in their usual course, and, in consequence, are recoiling on the blood and overfill the vessels, and affect the head, glands, or kernels of the neck and throat, the lungs, and other principal parts.

To enumerate all the causes of colds, would be both endless and useless. The usual, are, riding horses or driving of them till they are hot, and letting them stand in the cold air: and, by not being carefully rubbed down when they come in hot, off long journeys. The signs of a horse having a cold, are, a cough, heaviness and dulness, in proportion to the severity of it, and he rattles in his breathing—his flanks work, and he will loath his meat, and refuse his water—his mouth will be slimy—his ears

and feet will be cold: in this case there is danger of a fever, and the pulse should be consulted: in small horses the pulse is generally from 50 to 55, but in large horses, from 45 to 50: two pulse veins are to be found, one on the inside of the jaw bone, the other on the inside of the fore leg, between the point of the shoulder and the knee joint. If the disorder should increase, bleed him two quarts; and, if his lungs are affected, repeat the bleeding the next day. If the horse be costive, give him a mild purging ball, or drink. The balls that I have recommended for a purge, may be dissolved in warm water or ale.

Particular notice should be taken, to see that the horse waters or stales freely—if not, his yard should be examined. This should be done, by the operator oiling his hand before it is introduced into the sheath—but the yard should not be strained down, which is often practised, as both the yard and sheath can be cleaned, without stretching down the yard. In performing this operation, I have found hard substances round the point of the yard, like stones, about the size of an Indian corn; and at other times I have found a cap over the point of the yard, of a substance similar to a skin, or isinglass, but both these obstructions are easily removed without straining down the yard, or the internal part of the sheath. All horses' yards should be examined every three or four months. I have attributed those stones, that I have described, to



the horses' drinking the hard pump water in this city, as the stones appear to be of the same consistency as the fir on the inside of our tea kettles. I have known it to be the case, through neglect of examining the yard in time, that the horse's water has been stopped for a great length of time—that the bladder has burst, and the horse has died. After I have removed those obstructions, I have given the following diuretick ball.

Take one ounce nitre, finely powdered, one ounce of juniper berries, half an ounce of white rosin, with as much Venice turpentine as would make it into a ball. This I have proved to be effectual, as it will generally pass through, by urine, in three or four hours.

Should the cold continue, give the following ball, from Dr. Bracken :

Take aniseed, and greater cardamomum, and caraway seeds, finely powdered, of each, one ounce ; flour of brimstone, two ounces ; turmeric, in fine powder, one ounce and a half ; saffron, two drachms ; Spanish juice dissolved in water, two ounces ; liquorice powder, one ounce and a half ; oil of aniseed, half an ounce ; wheat flour sufficient to make it into a stiff paste : beating all the ingredients well, in a mortar. These balls consist of warm, opening ingredients ; and given in small quantities, about the size of a pullet's egg, will encourage a free perspiration ; but, in case of a fever, should be cautiously continued. This simple method, with

good nursing and warm messes, and gentle exercise every day, will hasten recovery. The manger should be kept clean, by filling it with clean straw. His feeds should be given in small quantities : his hay well shook, and sprinkled with water.

## CHAPTER IV.

### *On Fevers.*

THE symptoms which denote a fever, are the following: The horse is restless, his flanks work quick, his eyes are red and inflamed, his tongue parched and dry—his breath is hot, and smells strong; his appetite is lost, and he nibbles his hay, and is frequently smelling to the ground—his whole body is hotter than ordinary, and he dungs often, and little at a time—his urine is high coloured—he appears to crave water, but drinks little: his pulse beats full, and hard to fifty strokes, or more, in a minute.

The first thing necessary to be done, is to bleed two or three quarts, if the horse is strong and in good condition; then give him a pint of the following drink, four times a day.

Take nitre, one ounce; of balm, sage, and camomile flowers, each, an handful; liquorice root, sliced, half an ounce: infuse in three pints of boiling water—strain off, and add to it the juice of two or three limes, and sweeten with honey or molasses. The chief article to be depended on, is the nitre: in a high fever, I have given as much as half a pound of nitre per day, with good effect.

Should the horse be costive, give the following clyster :

Take two full hands of marshmallows, and one of chamomile flowers ; fennel seed, an ounce—boil in three quarts of water to two—strain off—add four ounces of molasses, and a pint of linseed or neat's foot oil.

His diet should be as recommended before, for colds : to consist of warm messes, given in small quantities—should he refuse warm food or water, he should be indulged with cold. A small portion of picked hay should be put into his rack at a time, as his breath will taint all manner of food. Moderate exercise, fresh air, and a clean stable, will have a tendency to restore the horse to health.

## CHAPTER V.

### *Of the Pleurisy, and Inflammation of the Lungs.*

THIS is a disorder that horses are much subject to in this country. I have frequently found, by examining the carcasses of dead horses, different kinds of inflammations on the pleura, or membrane that lines the chest internally. The whole substance of the lungs were black, and full of a gangrened water; and, in short, inflammations in every bowel. The blood vessels were so overloaded, that the blood has burst out of the smaller vessels, and gushed out, as from a fountain, filling all the cavities of the body. At other times I have found large clots of blood, resembling liver, adhering or sticking to the sides of the body. A pleurisy, then, is generally termed an inflammation of the lungs. In this disorder a horse shews great uneasiness; shifts about from place to place. In the beginning, he often strives to lie down, but starts up immediately, and frequently turns his head towards the affected side; and this has caused many to mistake the pleurisy for the gripes. The cure of this disorder depends, in a great measure, on plentiful bleeding. If the horse is strong, three or four quarts of blood should be immediately taken; and,

if the symptoms do not abate, the bleeding should be repeated. I have taken away as much as eight or ten quarts in twenty-four hours. But the disorder may, in a great measure, be discovered by the blood, which appears black and thick, nearly like molasses. A blistering ointment should be rubbed all over his brisket, upon the foremost ribs. The diet and medicine should be both cooling, relaxing, and diluting—warm messes, and plenty of water or gruel.

The following balls should be given, thrice a day :

Take of spermaceti and nitre, one ounce ; oil of aniseed, thirty drops ; with honey enough to make a ball.

A purging clyster should likewise be given.

Take senna, two ounces ; fennel seed and bayberries, of each, one ounce : boil in five pints of water, to two quarts—pour off the clear, and add four ounces of purging salts ; half a pint of molasses, and half a pint of linseed oil. If the horse should be costive, give a purging ball ; and he should be gradually exercised in the open air. I have found a rowel, placed between the fore legs, to be of great service.

## CHAPTER VI.

### *Of a Cough, and Asthma.*

I HAVE seen old practitioners more perplexed, to remove a settled cough, than many other complaints ; which, perhaps, has been owing to their want of attention to the different symptoms, which distinguish one cough from another : therefore it was impossible for them to find out the true method of cure.

If a horse's cough is of long standing, attended with the loss of appetite, and wasting of flesh, it denotes a consumption, and that the lungs are full of knotty, hard substances, called tubercles, which are commonly discovered on dissection.

The following signs denote when the cough proceeds from phlegm, and slimy matter, that stop up the vessels of the lungs : The horse's flanks have a quick motion, but not with his nostrils open, like in a fever, or that is broken winded : his cough is at times dry and husky, and sometimes moist : he rattles in the throat, and at times throws out of his nose and mouth, a quantity of white phlegm, especially after drinking or exercise—which discharge gives great relief.

Asthmatic cases are to be distinguished in their symptoms, from pursiness, and thick windedness ; and is occasioned by too full, or foul feeding, and want of proper exercise.

As soon as a horse is discovered to have a cough, he should be moderately bled, and have a purging ball ; which will, generally, give relief. But, should the cough continue for a week or ten days, after bleeding and purging, give him two drachms of calomel, mixed up with an ounce of diapente, for two nights, and the next morning give him a purging ball : keep him well clothed and littered, and fed with warm messes. Once, in eight or ten days, a purge may be repeated, with one mercurial ball given over night : the mercurial ball may be mixed up with wheat flour and honey. Should the cough continue, and the horse be valuable, the following balls should be continued to be given, every day, for two or three weeks, or longer, to be of real service.

Take of cinabar of antimony, half a pound ; gum guaiacum, four ounces ; myrrh, and gum ammoniac, of each, two ounces ; Venice soap, half a pound : the cinabar must be finely levigated, and the whole mixed up with honey. But, after all that has been done, if the horse should prove broken winded, he then must be kept on wet feed, as no certain cure, in that case, has as yet been discovered.



## CHAPTER VII.

### *Of an Apoplexy, or Staggers.*

I SHALL in the present chapter omit, as I have done in the preceding chapters, to give a variety of different opinions, of different authors, as to the cause of this disorder ; and only go to shew the practice that I have pursued, and the means by which I have effected a cure.

The previous symptoms, that I have discovered, are a drowsiness, with watery eyes, full and inflamed, and a disposition to stagger, or reel ; feebleness, and the head constantly hanging or resting on the manger ; with but little fever, and but little alteration in the dung, or urine : at times the horse is inclined to rear up and fall back, when handled by the head. Besides the above symptoms, the horse will be frantic at times. I have seen them when let loose, run, with open mouth, at any person that stood before them ; and, at other times, I have seen them run direct against a wall or fence : they having, apparently, lost their sight. This is what is generally termed the blind, or mad staggers. I recollect, a few years past, to have been called by a respectable Dutchman in this city, to see his horse, that had the mad staggers. He said

to me, Mr. Carver, mine horse is bewitched—I suspect the person that has done it—I have some very bad neighbours. I laughed at the ignorance of the man, and his belief in ancient superstition. For my own part, I have long since discarded from my mind, witches, hobgoblins, and ghosts of all kinds: having swept them away from my brains, with the besom of thought. I drove the old lady, the witch, out of my employer's horse—but the poor animal lost the sight of one eye. This I did not attribute to my friend's old witch, but to the malignity of the disorder.

When it is discovered that a horse has the staggers, the first thing that should be done is to empty the vessels, by purging and bleeding. If the horse is strong, four or five quarts of blood should be taken; and two or three rowels should be introduced, to cause a plentiful discharge. Opening clysters should be given. If a small portion of Spanish flies, be mixed with a small quantity of Venice turpentine and hog's lard, to make the rowel of, it will cause a quick suppuration. By pursuing this method, and giving the following balls, I have performed cures in the worst of cases.

Take of asafœtida, half an ounce; Russia castor, powdered, two drachms; valerian root, powdered, one ounce: make into a ball, with honey and oil of amber. This ball should be given twice a day, at first, for two or three days, until the horse is found

to be mending ; and, after that, one ball should be continued, until the cure is performed.

The following ointment should be rubbed into the cheeks, temples, neck, spines of the back, and wherever there are contractions and stiffness :

Take marshmallow ointment, four ounces ; oil of amber, two ounces, and a sufficient quantity of camphorated spirit of wine to make a liniment.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### *Of the Strangles.*

THE strangles is a distemper to which colts and young horses are very subject. It begins with a swelling between the jaw bones, which, at times, extends to the muscles of the tongue, and is attended with great heat, pain, and inflammation : so that, till matter is formed, it is difficult for the horse to swallow. I have known horses, in this country, that have been eight or nine years old, to have this disorder, which I never saw in England. This disease is critical. But the most approved method is, to assist nature in bringing the swellings to maturity, by keeping the jaws and throat constantly moist, with ointment of marshmallows, and covering the head and neck with a warm hood : but all swellings, in glandular parts, suppurate slowly. The following poultice should be applied twice a day, hot, to the throat :

Take half a peck of turnips, and half a peck of onions—boil them until they are quite soft ; and white lily root, half a pound ; and add half a pound of ointment of marshmallows. By this method, the swellings on the inside of the jaw bones will break ; or it will cause a discharge from the

nostrils. I have known the throat so affected, that the horse could not eat a mouthful for several days. In this case I have given him, twice a day, a cordial drink to support his system ; and have, every two hours, gargled his throat with vinegar and honey : and, by doing this, the ulcer has broke, and a powerful discharge has followed ; without which, the horse must have died. Great care should be taken that the horse be not costive ; and, to that end, a purging drink should be given, and two quarts of blood should be taken, from the jugular or neck vein. But should a costiveness continue, relaxative clysters should be administered : warm messes should be given, as soon as the horse can eat, in which a small portion of nitre should be put.— Should the running at the nose continue too long, which will greatly weaken the horse, give him, every day, an ounce of Jesuits' bark, or a strong decoction of guaiacum shavings.

If a hardness remain, after the sores are healed up, anoint with mercurial ointment.

## CHAPTER IX.

### *Of the Diseases of the Eyes.*

THE disorders of the eyes arise from different causes: such as colds, bruises, and inflammation of the blood. Some authors have supposed it to be hereditary. But, from whatever cause it may originate, in the first place the horse should be physicked and bled, in order to cool his blood. All internal applications, before this, will only increase the inflammation: such as blowing into the eye burnt alum, white vitriol, powdered sugar, &c. Should the eye be swelled, attended with a running, it should be spunged with cold spring water and vinegar; or the following wash:

Take of white vitriol, half an ounce; sugar of lead, two drachms: dissolve in a pint of spring water. Let the eye be bathed with this wash three or four times a day.

When the inflammation has been very great, I have found that a rowel, placed between the forebrows, to be of great service. Likewise, bleeding in the large vein under the eye, will at times give great relief. If, after the heat is abated, and the swelling gone down, there should remain a film on the globe, or any internal part of the eye, there

should be a little white vitriol, finely powdered, and sugar candy blown into the eye, which will take off the film. During the time, the horse should be fed on messes, and an ounce of nitre put in his feed, once a day. I have seen horses that have had a speck on the eye, occasioned by a stroke from the lash of a whip, which I have completely removed, by touching the speck with luna caustic. But this should not be done every day, but once in two days, for fear of inflaming the eye ; and, at the same time, the eye should be bathed with the aforementioned wash. I have seen practitioners attempt to cure moon blindness and cataracts, but I never saw one of them succeed. They are complaints that I never attempted, through my thirty years' practice. But considered it like attempting to cure the glanders. And, whenever I have been applied to for that purpose, I have recommended the owner immediately to give the horse a leaden ball through his heart or brains ; and I always looked on it as folly for an author even to write on it, or prescribe any cure. ˆ



## CHAPTER X.

### *Of the Farcin, or Farcy.*

THIS is also a distemper to which horses are much subject to in this country; and which perhaps has called forth as much, or more of my practice, than any other disorder; and in which I have been as much successful in curing: as I do not recollect but one horse to have died under my care, with this distemper. The said horse was taken care of by a negro, who did not follow my directions, in regard of exercise and diet; and the horse was a few miles in the country. The practitioner, in this particular, labours under a great disadvantage; as proper regimen, exercise, and good nursing, are very essential in performing a cure. The practitioner also has other evils to encounter, as he is seldom applied to until a variety of nostrums have been given the horse, which he has to encounter, and counteract, as well as the disease. Therefore, let his knowledge of the anatomy or œconomy of the horse, be what it may, he gets but little applause. These observations I know to be correct. Besides, it is expected that he be almost possessed of supernatural powers, so as to raise the dead to life—or perform an instantaneous cure. And his

employer is not acquainted with the danger to which he is exposed, at the time he is practising on this powerful animal. Neither is he acquainted with the quantity of medicine that the horse requires, or the expense of those medicines. I have given balls that have cost me one dollar, before it was put down the horse's throat. Therefore, on account of the high price of drugs, and for fear of offence being given, in regard of charge, I have been obliged to substitute medicine of a cheap quality, and to omit those that would have had a far better effect: for gentlemen in this country do not pay that respect to a valuable horse, that the gentlemen in England do. I beg pardon of my readers for thus digressing from the subject; but they were ideas that struck my mind at the time, and a man cannot help his thoughts. But to the point, as regards the farcy; on which I mean to be as explicit, or plain and concise as possible. Different authors have given their different opinions, in regard to the origin of the farcy. Some having viewed it as a distemper of the blood vessels, while others have considered it as local, by which the constitution is not tainted—the poison being arrested, or seated, only in the glands. Be this as it may, in the beginning of the disease, it will at length, however, insinuate itself into the circulation of the blood, and poison the whole mass. There are, therefore, two kinds of farcy—the one called the button, and the other the water farcy. The

button farcy at first, makes its appearance in small round buds, like grapes or berries, that spring out over the veins, and all parts of the body, from the head almost down to the hoofs. In the beginning they are hard, but soon turn into soft blisters ; and when broke, discharge an oily or bloody ichor, and turn into very foul ulcers, that yield a great and offensive discharge. I have seen them constantly continue to drip from all parts of the body, on the floor of the stall in which the horse has stood, like the dripping of meat that was roasting before a fire : in this case the cure is difficult—but in which I have performed perfect cure. But at times this kind of farcy will turn to seated glanders ; when this is the case, the horse should be dispatched as quick as possible, for fear of the contagion spreading : besides, no other horse should be permitted to stand in the same stable with a horse in this situation.

I now proceed to describe what is called the water farcy : it is a species of one and the same distemper, but makes its appearance in a different way or form. I believe this disorder to be what is generally called the yellow water, by farmers and others in the interior parts of the country ; and by which they loose a great number of horses, for want of knowing a remedy to perform a cure.—The water farcy begins generally with large swellings in different parts of the body ; such as the cheeks, neck, and hind legs, and at times the fore

legs also—with two large swellings that run along both sides of the belly, from the flank to the fore leg, which swellings are generally as large as a man's arm, and are full of yellow water: the sheath is also greatly swelled—and at times there will be a running at the nostrils—These symptoms will be attended with a high fever and a costiveness.

Both kinds of this distemper being of an inflammatory nature, and particularly affecting the blood vessels, must of course require large bleeding; and more so, if the horse should be fat and full of blood—this I have always found to check the farcy: but if the horse is low in flesh, the loss of too much blood proves injurious. Care should be taken to examine his yard and sheath immediately; and that a passage be obtained as quick as possible, both by dung and urine; and one or more rowels are always necessary. Give one of the purging balls, as recommended in chapter the second; and likewise give, in a day or two, the diuretick balls, as recommended in chapter the third. Should the distemper prove obstinate, and be found not to give way to these means, give a drachm of corrosive sublimate, night and morning, two or three times, in a ball made of wheat flour and honey; observing, at the same time, to give the horse, now and then, an ounce of nitre—that is, refined saltpetre, in his messes. I have many times observed the good effect by giving the corrosive sublimate, as it would alter the colour of the matter that discharged from

the rowels, in twelve hours, from a yellow hue to that as black as a coal; and by these means, and proper exercise in open air, I always effected a cure. But it should be observed not to give the sublimate too often, as it will salivate the horse, or cause his mouth to be sore. After the cure is performed, it would be well to give a purging ball, and take a small quantity of blood, in order to prevent a return of the distemper.



## CHAPTER XI.

### *Of the Yellows, or Jaundice.*

HORSES are frequently subject to this disorder ; which is easily discovered by a dusky yellowness of the eyes—the inside of the mouth and lips—the tongue, and the bars of the roof of the mouth, also look yellow ; the horse is dull and feeble, and refuses food ; the fever is slow—but both the yellowness and fever will increase, provided no remedy be applied to check it. The dung is generally hard and dry, of a pale colour ; his urine is of a dark dirty brown colour ; and when it has stood some time on a pavement, or the floor of the stall in which he stands, looks red, like blood.—He stales with difficulty ; and if the disorder is not quickly checked, the horse will grow frantic : but if proper means are taken, there is but little doubt of a cure. The following directions should be observed : First bleed plentifully ; and, as horses are apt to be costive with this disorder, the next morning give a purging ball, as before recommended ; but add to it two drachms of saffron : his feed should be mashes—and he should have gentle exercise in open air. The following balls, which are opening, may be given in a few days after the physic has done working :

Take of Dethop's mineral, half an ounce ; millepedes, half an ounce ; and Castile soap, one ounce. Give one of these balls every day, for four or five days ; and, should the horse be full of flesh, it will be proper to put in a rowel.



## CHAPTER XII.

### *Of the Colick or Gripes.*

THIS disorder has, perhaps, perplexed the farrier or practitioner more than many other complaints; as the internal parts, or bowels of the horse, cannot be seen, and he has not, like Balam's ass, been endowed with the faculty of speech; and I presume never will, as nature's laws are like their great Author, immutable. The best authors have described the gripes into three different species—the flatulent or windy—the bilious or inflammatory—and the dry gripes; each of which must be known by their different symptoms. The flatulent or windy colick is thus known: The horse is often lying down, and suddenly rising again with a spring, and strikes his belly with his hind feet; stamps with his fore feet; refuses food; stretches out his limbs, as if dying; his ears and feet are alternately hot and cold; he falls into profuse sweats, and then into cold damps; and often strives to stale, but cannot. This proceeds from a stoppage of urine, by a load of dung pressing on the neck of the bladder, which should be removed, with a hand dipt in oil, which will make way for the confined wind to discharge itself, by easing the neck of the bladder.

The following ball should be given as quick as possible :

Take Venice turpentine, and juniper berries pounded, of each one ounce ; nitre, one ounce ; oil of juniper, one drachm ; salt of tartar, two drachms : make into a ball, with honey or molasses : wash down with a horn or two of warm gruel.

I have given the following drink, and have found it effectual :

Take one ounce of nitre ; one ounce of juniper berries powdered ; one ounce of aniseeds ; half a gill of spirits of turpentine ; and half a gill of liquid laudanum : mix in three half pints of warm ale, and sweeten with molasses : at the same time give warm opening clysters. I have seen practitioners bleed in the mouth for this disorder, which seems to be of little or no use—the neck vein being more eligible. If, in an hour or two, the horse neither stales, dungs, or breaks wind, give another ball, or drink—walk or trot him about gently, but not to jade him.

The next species of colick is termed the bilious, or inflammatory, and is attended with most of the preceding symptoms—But a high fever soon comes on, with a panting and dryness of the mouth ; the horse continues to throw out a little hot dung, which appears blackish, or of a red colour, and is of a foetid smell : this denotes an approaching mortification. In this case the horse should be immediately bled, as much as three or four quarts ; and

it should be repeated in three or four hours, if the symptoms do not abate ; an emolient clyster should be given, with two ounces of nitre dissolved in it, two or three times a day. The following cooling drink should be given every two or three hours, till several stools are produced ; afterwards to be only given night and morning :

Take of senna, three ounces ; salt of tartar, half an ounce ; infuse in a quart of boiling water : in an hour or two add four ounces of glauber salts, with two ounces of honey. If the symptoms do not abate, the only thing to be depended on is a strong decoction of Jesuit's bark, given to the quantity of a pint every three hours, with half a pint of port wine.

If the horse is not of much value, give the following alterative ball :

Take of diapente, one ounce ; diascordium, half an ounce—make into a ball, with two drachms of myrrh, and two drachms of oil of amber : give it two or three times a day.

The last to be described is the dry gripes ; which arises from costiveness ; and is to be discovered by the horse's frequent and fruitless motion to dung, and the quick motion of his tail ; the hardness and blackness of the dung, and the high colour of his urine—and his great uneasiness. In this case the strait gut should be emptied, by a hand dipt in oil ; and an oily opening clyster, and a purge, should be given as quick as possible. The diet should be

warm messes—warm water ; and four ounces of gum Arabic should be dissolved in a quart of water—a little of which should be given every time the horse drinks.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### *Of Worms and Bots.*

IT would be both needless and useless to insert all the nostrums that have been recommended to destroy worms and bots, that reside in the stomach of the horse; and likewise to give the opinions of different authors as to their origin, and the manner by which they are introduced into the stomach. It is sufficient then to know that there are three kinds of worms found in horses: the most mischievous are called bots—They are of a reddish colour, and seldom exceed three quarters of an inch in length; at one extremity they have two small hooks, by which they attach themselves to the maw, or the insensible coat of the stomach, and then they do not appear to cause any great uneasiness; but, when they attach themselves to the sensible part, they do great injury, by keeping up a constant irritation, and occasioning emaciation, a rough standing coat, hide bound, and a cough, and often destroys the horse. In opening horses after they have been dead, I have found as many bots as would half fill the crown of a hat; and have known them to live a fortnight after the horse has been dead. Bots are

very tenacious of life : on this account it is almost impossible to drive them from their hold—It appears that all strong medicines, such as mercurials, only serve to make them stick faster ; as they work themselves into the maw, like bees into a honey-comb. To attempt therefore the destruction of bots, is probably useless : but La Fosse, a French author, highly recommends soot ; and powdered savine has been known to cause them to evacuate. But they appear to be fond of any thing sweet : I therefore have given to horses that have been troubled with them, one pint of sweet milk, and half a pint of molasses for three mornings running ; and the next morning given a purging ball, to which I have added a drachm of calomel—and in some cases with good effect.

The next worm that I shall describe is very slender, of a blackish colour, and seldom exceeds two inches in length ; but they are never found in the stomach—the largest parts of the canal is the place of their residence.

The third kind of worm is of a whitish colour, being from six to eight inches in length, and are generally found in the lower parts of the intestines : both of these kind of worms are common to horses in this country. They appear to consume a great quantity of chyle, or the nutritious part of the food that the horse eats, so that he is always poor and lean, and at times hide bound. But they are easy to get rid of, by giving two or three purging balls,

with a drachm of calomel in each ball ; always observing to wait eight or ten days, between giving each dose. Any observer may be satisfied of worms in the intestines, by raising the horse's tail, and he will discover a whitish or straw coloured powder, sticking below the anus or fundament.





## CHAPTER XIV.

### *Of Wounds in general.*

ALL fresh wounds made by cutting instruments, should, in the first place, be brought together as much as possible, either by sewing or bandage ; but not so as to prevent a suppuration, or a discharge of matter. But, provided the wounded part will neither admit of sewing or bandage, and the blood should flow in a copious manner, the first thing, in this case, to be attended to, is to stop the blood ; and this I have effected by applying a quantity of lint, or soft flax, dipt in a tincture made in the following manner, (which tincture ought to be always ready at hand, for the practitioner)—

Take half a pint of spirits of wine ; half a pint of brandy ; and one ounce of succotorine aloes, finely powdered : mix them together in a bottle. If the wound should be in such a part as not to admit of a bandage, so as to bind on the lint or flax, thus dipt in the tincture, it must be continued to be held on by the hand until there is an eschar formed ; otherwise it will elude the expectation, and frequently cause alarm with fresh bleeding. By the application of this tincture, in the manner above described,

I have never failed to stop the flow of blood, occasioned by the worst of wounds.

I recollect that, a few years ago, a horse belonging to Mr. Charles Ludlow, of this city, had the boom or shaft of a cartman's cart drove through his sheath, which came out at the hind part of his thigh; the wound was so large that a hand could be passed through it, and the blood gushed out, as from the spout of a pump; but by holding on the flax to the wound, for the space of four hours, dipt in the tincture, an eschar was formed. The next morning I proceeded to inject the wound with warm tincture of myrrh, which quickly brought on a supuration, or a plentiful discharge of thick white matter; anointing, at the same time, the swollen parts, with the London ointment of marshmallows—and frequently giving the horse cordial balls of the following description: One ounce of aniseeds, and one ounce of carraway; one ounce of nitre, finely powdered—mixed up with liquid laudanum. By these balls the horse was kept from starving: and every time I gave him water, an ounce of nitre, powdered, was mixed with it—In one month the cure was completed, and scarcely a scar to be seen on the outer part of the thigh. I have never known the forenamed tincture to fail in stopping of blood, either on man or horse, when closely applied.

A friend and countryman of mine, that resides about twelve miles from the city, was one day going up on a hay stack; and there was a large, old

fashioned hay cutter, that fell down, by the shake of the ladder, right across the instep of his foot—and so far severed the foot, that the fore part of it dropt down, so that it formed a square. The whole family was greatly alarmed—expecting the man quickly to bleed to death—But, on recollecting that there was some of my tincture in the house, it was immediately applied ; the foot bound up ; and the blood stopped. The next day a man was sent to town for more of the tincture ; and by continuing to apply it, and anointing the swelling with the ointment of marshmallows, the cure was completed, without being attended with any lameness.

By the following mixture I have likewise stopped profuse bleeding :

Take one ounce of spirits of turpentine, and one ounce of oil of vitriol—mix them together in a bottle ; leaving out the cork until the inflammation has subsided, or it will burst the bottle. But the former mixture is preferable, as it will both stop the blood and cure the wound.

All deep wounds should be injected with tincture of myrrh, to bring a speedy discharge ; and the injector should have a long tube, in order that the tincture may be applied to the bottom of the wound.—And no wound should be so closed at the mouth, or front, as to prevent a free discharge.

Some time past I was called on by a gentleman, to attend a horse a few miles in the country, that had had a shaft of a chair run into one of his

shoulders. An ignorant blacksmith, of this city, had previously attended the horse, and filled up the wound with salt ; and so closed the wound, that no suppuration could take place. I directly found, that both an inflammation and mortification had taken place, in consequence of this treatment : I therefore pronounced that the horse would die in twelve hours, and he did so.

### *Of Wounds in the feet.*

Wounds in the feet arise from different causes : such as cuts by hard substances—as glass, stones, and pricks from nails, by shoeing, or by taking up nails by travelling ; and when a nail is taken up, at, or near, the point of the frog, it is oftentimes attended with difficulty to cure, as it often penetrates the joint of the coffin bone. As soon as it is discovered that a nail has thus entered the foot, the first thing to be done is to remove the nail ; afterwards the top of the hole should be enlarged, by a knife or razeing iron, so as to admit of medicine going to the bottom of the wound. But the ridiculous custom, as practised by smiths in general, should never be adopted ; which is to pour into the hole spirits of turpentine—oil of vitriol—or burn the wound with a hot iron, as either of these will harden the top of the wound, by forming a hard crust, which will prevent a suppuration, and bring an in-

flammation into the foot. After the wound is thus opened, the hollow in the bottom of the foot should be stopped up, with equal parts of Venice turpentine, tar, and hog's lard ; the stopping being confined in with splints put across the foot, under the shoe ; and the horse should be suffered to stand still for twelve hours, at least. After this the foot should be examined again, to see whether an inflammation has taken place or not ; if an inflammation should have taken place, and the wound be found not to discharge or suppurate, there should be some tincture of myrrh poured hot into the hole, and the foot stopped as before. But after all this precaution has been taken, if there should still remain a violent heat in the foot, and the horse appears to be in great pain, the sole of the foot should be pared away, round the wound, with a butteris, and the hole more opened ; but not entirely to take off the sole, which is both a cruel and barbarous practice, and mostly causes the hoof to come entirely off. After the wound is thus opened, as before described, there should be a little tincture of myrrh poured boiling hot into it, and a small piece of corrosive sublimate pushed down to the bottom of the wound, with a probe made of whale bone—as that will not break, so as to leave any part of it in the foot. After this has been done, the foot should be stopped with the aforementioned ointment ; and a small portion of verdigris added to the ointment—The foot likewise should be tied up in a bag, filled

with fresh cow dung—The horse should also be physicked and bled ; and have nitre given, in both his feed and water. By following up these observations, I never failed to perform a cure, even in the worst of cases. After the wound has been properly cleansed out, and the danger subsided, the foot should be continued to be dressed, but with a more mild ointment—such as marshmallows ; or an ointment made of beeswax and hog's lard, and a small portion of Venice turpentine. And when the horse has so far recovered, as to be able to work, there should be a bar welded on the shoe, about two inches wide, to come opposite the wound in the foot, in order that no hard substance shall press on the tender part ; and this is far preferable to a plate placed all over the shoe—as the foot can be washed, or cleaned out and dressed, without removing the shoe.

## CHAPTER XV.

### *Of the Locked Jaw.*

THIS is a disorder, that has hitherto baffled the art of the physycian, and also the power of medicine to cure, either on man or beast: although it must be acknowledged, that there have been instances of cures being performed—but, perhaps, more by chance, than any other cause. In the course of my practice, I have had a great number of horses under my care, that have had, what is generally called the stag evil, or lock jaw—but performed a cure on two only: and I believe, that nineteen out of twenty, that are seized with this complaint, die. I recollect to have kept a very fine horse alive fourteen days, with this disorder on him, merely by giving him clysters, and pouring cordial drinks down his nostrils; but he died, after all the pains that had been taken. As for my part, I have consulted a great many authors on the subject, and tried a variety of inventions of my own—being determined, if possible, to find out a perfect cure: I have bled, till the horse has almost dropt by the loss of blood; and have thrown them into the most profuse perspiration; plunged them in the river; and even electrified them—but to no



good effect.—By the last two operations, the jaw appeared for a short time to drop—but immediately closed as fast as ever. The celebrated Mr. Gibson, has, in my opinion, given the best, and most lively description of the lock-jaw, of any author that has written on the subject: which I quote in his own words—who says, “As soon as the horse is seized, his head is raised, with his nose towards the rack; his ears pricked up, and his tail cocked, looking with eagerness, as an hungry horse, when hay is put down to him—or like a high spirited horse, when he is put upon his mettle: insomuch, that those who are strangers to such things, when they see a horse stand in this manner, will scarce believe any thing of consequence ails him, but they are soon convinced, when they see other symptoms come on apace; and that his neck grows stiff, cramped, and almost immoveable: and if a horse lives a few days, several knots will arise on the tendinous parts thereof; and all the muscles, both before and behind, will be so much pulled and cramped, and so stretched, that he looks as if he was nailed to the pavement, with his legs stiff and straddling: his skin is drawn so tight, on all parts of his body, that it is almost impossible to move it; and, if trial be made to make him walk, he is ready to fall at every step, unless he be carefully supported: his eyes are so fixed with the inaction of his muscles, as gives him a deadness in his looks; he snorts and sneezes often; pants continually, with shortness of breath;



and this symptom increases continually, till he drops down dead, which generally happens in a few days, unless some sudden and very effectual turn can be given to the distemper." This I know to be as correct a description as can be given. But I have wondered to see almost all the authors that I have read on the subject, and they are not a few, recommend giving to horses, in this situation, balls of various prescriptions. I would ask those gentlemen, how a single ball is to be given, when not so much as a shilling piece can be put between his teeth; and his jaw cannot be pried open, even with an iron bar.

In the cases wherein I have succeeded, the following remedies were applied—First to bleed plentifully, and anoint the jaws and head with ointment of marshmallows—and holding a large hot iron bar to the neck and jaws, to force in the ointment: afterwards I have rubbed in strong blistering ointment—from the withers to the tail; and also applied a blister plaster, beginning at the withers, and continuing it the whole length of the spine, to the tail; and, instead of attempting to give a ball, I have poured the following drink down the nostrils: composed of—

Half an ounce of asafætida; Russia castor, three drachms; valerian root, powdered, one ounce; oil of amber, one ounce—put into a pint of warm ale, sweetened with honey. Two or three of these drinks

should be given in a day, with warm gruel : but it requires the assistance of two or three men to give it.

The following clyster should be given once a day :

Take rue, pennyroyal, and chamomile flowers, of each, a handful ; and asafœtida, one ounce—boil in three quarts of water, to two—strain off, and add half a pint of neat's foot oil—The horse must likewise be supported by nourishing clysters, made of milk pottage, which must be given to the quantity of three or four quarts a day. These medicines being given, will warm, invigorate, and attenuate the blood : and by using these means, I have succeeded, in a few cases, in performing a cure.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### *Of Strains in various parts.*

It is to be observed that in all strains, the muscular or tendinous fibres are over stretched ; like a piece of catgut that is overdrawn, so as to destroy its springiness or elasticity : therefore it is easy to see, that by soaking or bathing the affected part in oil, must of course be erroneous, as this will serve more to extend the fibres, that are already over stretched. But I have seen instances where the muscle or fibre has been shrunk, occasioned by a stroke or a kick on the leg of the horse, which has caused him to stand altogether on the toe of the foot, for a length of time, until the muscle or fibre has so much shrunk up, that the heel of the foot could not be brought to the ground. In cases of this kind, I have continued to soak the affected part with neat's foot oil, and rolled up the leg in a flannel roller, until the fibre has been relaxed, and the horse has been perfectly cured. But it is a difficult task to convince the illiterate and unthinking, of the absurdity of applying restringents : or to persuade those that are owners of valuable horses, not to let them be tampered with, by those who have never thought or studied for their own benefit,

and much less for the horse ; for common observation proves, that two thirds of the human race think but very little—neither can they think. When it is clearly proved that a horse is lame in the shoulder, he should be rowelled a little below the point of the shoulder, and likewise be bled and physicked.—When a horse's shoulder is overstrained, he does not put out that leg as the other, but, to prevent pain, sets the sound foot firmly on the ground, to save the other, even though he be turned short on the lame side, which motion tries him more than any other. When trotted in hand, instead of putting his leg forward in a right line, he forms a circle with the lame leg ; and, when he stands in the stable, that leg is put forward before the other. If the shoulder is much swelled, it should be fomented, by woolen cloths dipt in a strong decoction of wormwood, tansy, and chamomile flowers—to which may be added, half a pint of spirits of wine.

Strains of the back sinews are very common, and are easy to be discovered by the swelling, which extends, at times, from the back side of the knee, down to the pastern joint. These strains likewise, in the first instance, should be fomented—and afterwards treated in the following manner, and the oils here prescribed applied :

Take of the best vinegar, one quart ; spirits of turpentine, half a gill ; bole ammoniac, one ounce ; common salt, a teacup full—mix in a bottle—shake up—and rub in well with the hand ; place a flannel

roller round the leg, and draw it moderately tight : the roller should be about two yards long, and four or five inches wide.

Or take the following receipt for strain oil, which can be recommended, and will recommend itself :

Take of spirits of wine, two ounces ; camphire, half an ounce ; linseed oil, half a pint ; vinegar, one pint.

When a horse is lame in the stifle, he always treads on the toe, and cannot set the heel to the ground ; if a large swelling ensues, foment it well with the aforementioned decoction, till it disperses, and then bathe the part with either of the above medicines.

A lameness in the whirlbone and hip, is to be discovered by the horse dragging his leg after him, and dropping backward on his heel when he trots. If the muscles of the hip, only, are injured, the cure is easy ; but when the ligaments of the joint are affected, the cure is difficult. In either case, at first the parts should be bathed or fomented : should neither of these succeed, a strong blister should be applied over the hip or whirlbone, and the horse be turned out to pasture, at least for three months, as rest and time only can restore the injured parts to their proper tone ; and this must be observed in all kinds of strains. The following blister should be applied :

Take of marshmallow ointment, four ounces ; Venice turpentine, two ounces ; tar, two ounces ;

mustard, two ounces ; Spanish flies, powdered, two drachms ; oil of origanum, two drachms. The blister may be kept on, by applying pitch, or any thing of a sticking nature, round the edge of the plaster.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### *Of Bone and Blood Spavin.*

IT would be altogether needless to enter into the cause of this disorder. Let it suffice then, that I describe both the bone and blood spavin; and the method that I have pursued, whereby cures have been effected.

That which is generally termed a bone spavin, is a hard bony excrescence, or hard swelling, growing on the inside of the hock of the horse's hind leg. A spavin that begins on the lower part of the hock, is not so dangerous or difficult to cure, as when it puts out higher—between the two round processes of the leg bone: And a spavin near the edge, is not so hard to cure as when it is more inward, towards the middle, as it does not so much affect the bending of the hock joint. For my own part, I am convinced that it is impossible to cure the bone spavin, if it has been of long standing. Some years past, a gentleman that owned a valuable horse, that had got the bone spavin, persuaded me to attempt to take it off: I therefore fixed the horse in stocks, and laid open the part; and, by the use of knives and chissels, took off all the hard substance from the bone; and afterwards applied caustic, and

powerful digestive ointment. The wound at length was cured, and the horse turned out to pasture for some months : but after all that had been done, the horse continued lame—owing, I presume, to a defect in the joint. I have many times since been applied to, for to cure the bone spavin, but declined the attempt. But on hearing of a Mr. Clements, a farrier in this city, who, it is said, is in possession of a diploma from the Veterinary College of London, and that he could cure the bone spavin, I advised those who applied to me, to take their horses to him : although I confess, that I did not place any more confidence in the talents of Mr. Clements, on account of his diploma, or his knowledge of the dead languages—as neither of these can give experience. During the course of my life, I have conversed with many college-bred gentlemen, who, in my opinion, were colleg'd idiots—as the schools had taught them science, and the Greek and Latin, before they had taught them common sense. But my opinion was, that as nature has diversified her gifts, that Mr. Clements might have discovered something new, that might perform a cure ; but, by seeing several of the horses after he had operated on them, I found that he had exactly pursued the former methods, that myself and old practitioners have pursued for a number of years past, and that the horses still remained lame. If I myself, am in possession of any diploma, it is a grant from the college of nature, and the credentials



are, experience, reason, and common sense. But to return to the spavin—as soon as it is discovered that there is a swelling on the horse's hock, and the appearance of a bone spavin is coming on, it should be immediately fired, and a strong blister applied to the part, which should be repeated two or three times, leaving a space of two or three days between each application—And the horse must be permitted to rest, or, if it is convenient, he should be turned out to pasture for two or three months—and this will perform a cure. Every time the blisters are taken off, the part should be anointed with elder or marshmallow ointment.

A blood spavin, is a swelling and dilutation of the vein that runs along the inside of the hock of the hind leg, which will rise and fall like a cushion, by the pressure of the finger. But this is easily cured, by repeated blisters, and resting the horse. The blistering ointment that I have applied for the purpose, is the following :

Take of marshmallow ointment, three ounces ; Venice turpentine, two ounces ; Spanish flies, a drachm and a half ; sublimate, one drachm ; and oil of origanum, two drachms.

The hair should be cut off as close as possible, before the blister is applied—this should be done in the morning ; and the horse's head tied up to the rack all day, so as to prevent his getting off the blister. Care must be taken to bind the blister fast on, with a broad tape or list. After the blister has

done running, and the scabs peel off, it should be repeated a second time, and, if required, a third time, in the same manner. These applications will, generally, perform a cure.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### *Of the Pole Evil and Fistula.*

IT is my intention to treat of these two diseases under one head, or chapter, as they appear to be of a similar nature, and require almost the same treatment. The pole evil is an abscess near the pole of the horse, formed in the sinuses, between the pole bone and the uppermost vertebræ, or what is commonly called the whitleather of the neck. It often proceeds from blows, bruises, or some external violence. It should, in the first place, be attempted to be dispersed, by bathing the part with hot vinegar or train oil : but if an oozing, or matter of a hot, ichory kind, should make its way through the skin, the best way is to poultice, with any kind of a strong drawing poultice. But should the swelling have been of long standing, and it has become a foul ulcer, and the matter flows in great quantities, resembling melted glue, and is of an oily consistence, it will then require to be opened with a knife ; and the depth of the cavities should be discovered, by the finger or a probe—and should there be found a quantity of mortified or rotten flesh, it should be taken out : and this I have often found, when the swelling has been neglected for a length of time.

Care should be taken not to cut away or injure the tendinous ligament, that runs along the neck under the mane. When the matter is on both sides, an opening must be made on each side, and the ligament remain undivided. This being done, and the horse fixed fast in a pair of stocks, the following scald or mixture should be applied, boiling hot, to the cavities, after they have been well washed out with a sponge dipt in vinegar:

Take of train oil, half a pint; honey, two ounces; spirits of wine, four ounces; sublimate and white vitriol, of each, two drachms; verdigris, half an ounce; oil of turpentine, two ounces: mix together in a bottle—then put a sufficient quantity into a ladle with a spout. Care must be taken that it does not take fire, while making it hot. It will be well to close the wound with one or two stitches, after the scald has been poured into the abscess.

This should remain untouched for several days, and, if a good matter appears, it will do well without any farther dressing; but if the matter flows in abundance, and of a thin consistence, the scalding must be repeated, until the matter lessens and thickens, and the cure is performed. I have several times succeeded with only scalding once.

### *A Fistula*

Is a sore disease—a hollow, winding ulcer, and frequently arises on the withers of a horse; and is

occasioned by bruises, or pinches of the saddle ; and in the first place should be treated with repellers. The tumour should be bathed three or four times a day with hot vinegar ; or an ounce of the oil of vitriol may be put to a quart of vinegar. But when these swellings are critical, the repelling medicine must be avoided ; and assist in bringing the swelling to matter, by means of suppurating poultices. The tumours should never be opened before they are ripe—if they are, the sore will be spongy, and discharge a bloody ichor. But if the fistula has been of long standing, and appears to be a foul ulcer, it must then be opened : and if both sides of the wither are swelled, of course they must both be opened. Care should be taken to enlarge the openings, by paring away the lips downwards, so that the dressings may be applied easily : and care must be taken to avoid the ligament which runs along the neck, to the shoulders or withers : the openings should decline downwards, so that the medicines are sure to go to the bottom of the ulcer. The following scalding mixture should be applied :

Take of mutton suet, one pound ; tar and train oil, of each, half a pint ; white vitriol and corrosive sublimate, of each, one ounce. The tar and suet should be melted over a slow fire ; and the sublimate and vitriol should be finely powdered, and stirred into the ladle, with the tar and suet, after it is taken off the fire.

The dressing should remain untouched for ten days ; and should the running be stopped, it should only be bathed with train oil : but should the discharge continue, the scalding must be repeated.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### *On Shoeing.*

THE shoeing of a horse is an operation of far greater importance than is generally imagined : as the expectations of the owners of fine horses are often blasted, owing to the badness of their feet ; which is frequently occasioned by being badly shod : This mechanical art being solely committed to smiths, who, generally speaking, are altogether unacquainted with the anatomical structure of the foot of the horse ; and consequently cannot judge correctly, the manner in which the shoe ought to be placed on the foot, in order to cause the horse to travel sound. I am well aware, that what I shall here advance will meet with opposition, from the ignorant and prejudiced shoers of horses : and it is a notorious fact, that three fourths of them are as ignorant of the nature and structure of the foot, as the horse is of them. But I shall appeal to the understanding and judgment of the experienced few, both in this city and elsewhere, for the justness of the statement that I have given ; and I mean to be as plain and explicit as possible ; as it must be considered, that the preservation of the foot of the horse, is a most essential point ; and that the owners

of them should be aware, into whose hands they commit them to be shod. A most pernicious custom is practised in this city, by many pretended shoers, which is to make presents to gentlemen's coachmen, grooms, or negroes, in order to obtain horses to shoe : and some of them have gone so far, as to pay them two shillings per horse, for every horse that they brought to their shops. And, during the time that I continued shoeing of horses, I have had coachmen come to me, and inform me that they were going to drive for such and such gentlemen, and asked what I would give them, provided they continued the horses to be shod by me : my reply was, that I should give nothing ; and asked them if the gentlemen did not pay them wages—They then told me, that there was no call to put new shoes on the horses, every time they were shod, but only to remove them, and charge them as new : by my not complying with these demands, many horses were removed that I had shod for years. But it was plain to me, that gentlemen had by this custom been imposed on ; and some of them had discovered the fraud, and told me that they believed there were more horses shod for bribes and grog, than by experienced workmen : and when they discovered the fraud, they immediately ordered the horses back to my shop. I think it proper to make these remarks or facts known, in order that gentlemen may not be imposed on ; and that their horses may not be removed by their ser-



vants, out of the hands of experienced workmen, into the hands of those that know but little of the important art of shoeing. I shall, in the first place, proceed to give an anatomical description of the foot of the horse, as far as it is requisite to be known by those that undertake to shoe them.

The external covering of the foot is called the hoof; it is of a horny substance, without sense or feeling, and serves as a box or covering for the foot, to defend the blood vessels, nerves, tendons, &c. from external injuries, and support the weight of the body of the horse. The external parts of the hoof may be divided into four parts—1st, the crust or wall of the hoof; 2d, the sole; 3d, the frog or heels; 4th, the bars or binders. 1st, The circular part, into which the nails are drove when the horse is shod, is called the crust, or wall of the foot: it is a tough, hard substance, and thick or strong at the front or toe, but thinner towards the heels; and more so in the fore feet than in the hind ones, as it often happens that the crust or wall of the hind feet, is strongest or thickest at the heels. 2d, The sole fills up the inner and under part of the crust, and is composed of scaly layers, which, when grown too luxuriant, become dry, and fall off in scales; but when too much pared away with the butteris, the internal parts of the foot are exposed to bruises, from stones and other hard substances. And I have known, at times, the outer sole of the foot to become so hard, by the horse's continuing to

stand in the stable, or travelling on hot sandy roads, that it has bound tight on the internal part of the foot, so as to cause lameness; but by stopping the foot with tar and grease, or even fresh cow-dung, the sole has been relaxed, and in a few days the horse has travelled sound. 3d, The frog is of a soft, spongy substance, shaped like a dart, and reaches from the extremity of the heel, to the middle of the sole: in the middle of the frog is a cleft, or opening, by which the heels have a small degree of contraction, and expansion, every time the horse sets his foot on the ground. At times the frog is affected by a disease called the running thrush, which will frequently destroy almost the whole of it: when this is the case, the heels have lost their support, and the horse will go lame. The only thing to be done, is to place a bar shoe on the foot, which will prevent the heels from contracting and expanding, and guard the decayed part from stones, or other hard substances. After the shoe is placed on the foot, there should be a little of the tincture, as recommended in chapter xiv. poured into the affected frog, two or three times a day: at the same time, it will be well to bleed and physic the horse; and afterwards to give him one or two diuretick balls. The frog composes a great part of the heel of the horse; but the extremities of the crust, on each side of the frog, are called the heels, and are distinguished by the names of outside and inside. 4th, What are called the bars, or binders of the

foot, are hard pieces of the hoof, growing on each side of the frog, which serve in a measure to extend and guard the heels : and these, like the frog, should never be too much cut away—as nature has placed them as a covering, to defend the internal parts, and bones of the foot.

The bones of the foot are distinguished by the following names : the coffin bone—the shuttle bone—and the coronary bone : these bones are all in contact with each other, and require the frog and the binders to be strong, to prevent them from being injured by hard substances. It is requisite that all shoeing smiths should be acquainted with the external and internal parts of a horse's foot : if this was the case, they would not cut down the heels, or pare away the sole and frog, as they generally do. I would recommend to them the plan that I set for my apprentice boys—which was, to cut off the foot of a dead horse, and fix it in a vice, and continue to pare it away by shavings, with a butteris, until the whole structure of the foot is discovered. By this plan, and giving proper directions as to paring the foot and fitting the shoe, the young men have become accomplished workmen.

I shall now proceed to describe, as clear as language can convey my ideas, the form of a shoe, and the manner in which it should be fitted, before it is nailed on the foot. A shoe then, for the fore foot of a horse, should be made thinner on the inside rim, than on the outside, in order to clear the

sole of the foot, and to let the bearing rest entirely on the crust, or wall of the foot. By the shoe being made in this form, it will not require to be set so concave, or hollow, as if the shoe was made in all places of a thickness; besides, the surface of the shoe will be nearly flat, so that when the foot comes to the ground, it will be more even and steadfast. But to describe the weight of a shoe, is impossible—it must be left to the judgment of the shoer; but it must be so proportioned, as to completely bear the weight of the horse, without yielding or spreading out: and it should be observed, not to let the web of the shoe be too narrow at the heels, which is an error that almost all the smiths in this country are guilty of, as many of their shoes are not more than half an inch wide at each point of the heel, whereas they should be never less than one inch, and more for large horses, as it is the heels that want covering or guarding, and not the toe of the foot; for it is almost impossible to make the horse go lame at the toe, without driving a nail into the quick—but at times it is attended with difficulty, to make the horse go sound at the heels of the fore feet: the heels of the shoe should neither be too long or too short—if they extend too far beyond the heels, they act as a lever; and if too short, they sink into the heels, and produce corns. Many horses' feet may be said to resemble a wedge, that is, their heels are low or thin, whilst the toe is deep or thick; there being a far greater distance from the coronet,

or setting on of the foot, to the point, or front of the bottom of the toe, than there is from the coronet, or bottom of the heel; and when the foot is thus formed, the horse is said to be low heeled.—When this is the case, great care should be taken not to pare away the frogs, binders, or heels; but pare down the toe, and shorten it as much as it will admit of—leaving a sufficient quantity of the crust, or wall, to contain the nails: but the nails should never be placed too far back towards the heels of the shoe. From the first or second heel nail holes, or what is called (of the shoe) the quarters, it should be strong and wide, as it is the heels which want protecting or guarding, and not the toe of the foot: and the heels of the shoe should be placed over the edge of the anvil, and set off with the hammer, about an inch from the point of the heels, in order that they may not rest on the point of the heels of the foot; so that when the shoe is nailed on, there may be a space between the heels of the feet, and the shoes, nearly sufficient to contain the thickness of a dollar—and some feet will require more, as, by the horse's travelling, the heels of shoes will naturally sink down to the heels of the feet. By following this plan, I could always make the horse travel sound; and in a few months the heels would expand and grow up—and the weight of the horse would be taken off the heels, and thrown on the toes; or, what is called the centre of gravity, would fall on a point that can re-

ceive no injury ; and care should be taken to let the heels of the shoe stand full, and not curved in, as is too often done. It is a mistaken idea of many smiths, who suppose that a horse will cut at the heels, provided the heels of his shoe extend beyond the crust of the foot : but a horse, to cut at the heels, must have his feet in the position that a lady has her's, whilst her feet are placed in the stocks in a dancing school, with her toes turned outwards ; but not one horse in a hundred travels in this form. When a horse cuts with his heels, he strikes his legs a little below the knee joint, and is said to trot high—and this is called a speedy cut : but almost all horses that interfere, or cut, strike their legs about the pastern joint—and then they strike with what is generally called the quarter, or side of the foot ; in this case, the inside of the shoe should be brought straight, and fitted a little within the crust, or wall of the foot : and at times, the nails should be left out at the quarters, and be placed round the toes : and some horses require the inside of the shoe to be raised higher than the outside, with what is called a feather edged shoe. But it is impossible to prevent some horses from cutting—nature having formed them narrow in the chest, and at the buttocks ; and at times they get weary, and are not able to carry their feet in a straight line.—Many smiths commit an error, by making what is called the inside quarter of the shoe, weaker than the outside, whereas it should be stronger ; as the

inside of the foot and heel are generally the weakest, and consequently require more support and cover. And a shoe should never be fullered too fine, or near the outside edge or rim, as this will have a tendency to leave the wall, or crust of the foot thin. Likewise, the foot should never be rasped above the clinches, as nature has formed the outside crust tough and hard, and the inside of the hoof soft and flexible, the rasping away the outside crust of the hoof, may be compared to cutting away the outside bark of a tree : and there are but very few people but know that the inner bark is soft and tender.

As to shoeing the hind feet, it is not, in general, attended with so much difficulty as shoeing the fore ones ; but should the horse interfere or cut, the same precaution must be taken, as I have recommended for the fore feet. Care should be taken that the clinches of the nails are well let into the hoof, and more particularly on the inside of the foot ; for should the clinches raise, or project out beyond the hoof, it will cause the horse to cut.

There is one omission that I have observed in almost all the shoeing smiths in this country, which is, that they do not what is practised in England, that is to redraw the clinches of the nails, which is to place the pinchers under the nails the second time, and drive them up tight with the hammer, and rivet them down again : by this method the



clinches will never raise, but continue close in the hoof, so that the horse will not cut his legs with the clinches. But if this practice is not pursued, by the horse's stamping, or setting his foot on the ground, the nails will be drove farther into the holes of the shoe, and the clinches will of course raise. I appeal to the understanding of the experienced few, shoeing smiths, for the justness of these remarks, and likewise for fitting and placing the shoes on the feet, and more particularly on the fore ones, which require by far the greatest skill, as there is much more weight borne on the fore feet than on the hind ones : as it must be observed, that the weight of the horse's head and neck, and also the rider, are principally thrown on the fore legs or feet ; and this is what causes corns in the fore feet, and not in the hind ones : this also is the cause why corns are frequently found in the heels of horses' fore feet, and not in the hind ones.— When it is discovered that there are corns, they should be razed off with a drawing knife, and a little oil of vitriol poured on them ; or an equal portion of spirits of turpentine and oil of vitriol mixed together in a bottle, applied for a few days : By doing this, and not letting the heels of the shoes bear on them, they will get well.



## CHAPTER XX.

### *Of Founder.*

THIS is found to be a destructive disease, and is generally brought on by the inattention or neglect of the owner or rider of the horse, by letting him cool too fast, after coming off a hard journey, or violent exercise—and by letting him stand with his feet in a cold damp place : and at other times horses have been foundered, by letting them eat corn or oats, or drink cold water, before they had properly got cool, after they had been at hard labour.—This disease is often supposed to be an affection of the loins or chest—and farriers have applied medicines to this effect ; whereas the principal seat of the disease is in the feet, and has often terminated in the death of the horse. The feet will be found to be violent hot, and the animal will draw his hind feet as close as possible towards his fore ones, which will cause some persons to suppose that he is strained in the loins : but when the hind feet are most affected, the fore feet will be placed under the belly, as far as possible, in order to bear the weight of the carcase, but this is not often the case. The disease generally comes on very rapidly, and

appears in a few hours, after hard riding and permitting the horse to stand in the snow; or may take place in consequence of putting the horse into a hot stable, the vessels of the feet not being able to bear the sudden change, and of course will bring on an inflammation; and I have, as above stated, seen it brought on, by giving cold water before the horse had got cool.

This disease is easily discovered, by the inability of the animal to move, and by the position of his legs—the whole of them being affected: The horse will lay down and be unable to rise, and at times the fetlocks will swell, and there will be a violent fever in the feet, and the pain will be intense; the coffin bone of the foot will be thrown out of its natural position; the crust will fall in; and there will be rings and circles formed round the hoofs: it sometimes happens that the horny sole loses its concavity, and becomes convex—or what is generally called pumiced: this is frequently the case in a severe founder.

When a horse is found to be foundered, the shoes should be taken off immediately—and the feet should be well pared down at the toe, so as to draw blood, with a razing iron; and he should likewise be bled in the jugular vein of the neck—and his feet should be put into bags of fresh cow dung, or any cooling poultice—and the following medicines should be given twice a day:

Take of cream of tartar and nitre, of each, one ounce ; tartarised antimony, one drachm : make into a ball, with wheat flower and molasses. If costive, give a purging ball and clyster.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### *Of Splents.*

THESE are hard substances that grow on the shank bone, and are of different shapes and sizes : young horses are more subject to them than old ones—in young horses they often disappear and wear off : very few horses put out splents after they are seven or eight years old. A splent that arises in the middle of the shank bone, is not so dangerous as those which arise on the back part of this bone : when they grow large, and press against the back sinew, they always cause lameness or stiffness, by rubbing against it ; but the others, except they are situated near the joints, seldom cause lameness. As to splents, I judge it best not to meddle with them, unless they are of such a size as to disfigure the horse, or cause him to go lame. When a splent first makes its appearance, it should be bathed with vinegar, to which may be added a small piece of camphire, and this will often put a stop to their growth.

A variety of remedies are prescribed for this disorder : Some have recommended, to rub the splent with a round stick, or a hammer handle, until it is almost raw, and then to touch it with oil of

origanum: others have laid on a pitch plaster, with a little sublimate; but I have always succeeded, by firing, and blistering with the blister that is recommended in the chapter on the blood spavin: the blister should be repeated two or three times, observing to wait three or four days between each application: during this time, the splent should be anointed with the ointment of marshmallows.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### *Of a Curb and Ring Bone.*

WHAT is generally called a curb, is a hard bony substance, situated a little below the back part of the hock of the hind leg ; and at times, when it has been neglected, will cause a stiffness, and the horse will, at first starting, go lame : and when the bone is affected, it proves that the callous or hard substance is fixed fast to the bone of the leg.—When this is the case, the most sure way to perform a cure, is to fire with a thin iron, drawing some strait lines, about half an inch apart, and then cross-bar them ; but this operation should be performed by a person of judgment—and the horse should be confined in a pair of stocks. After the firing is thus judiciously performed, the blister that is recommended in the chapter on the spavin, should be applied, and repeated three times, and there will be no doubt of a cure being performed.

### *Ring Bone.*

This is a swelling that grows on the pastern bone, and runs round the coronet of the foot, and appears like a ring, from which it derives its name

—and it generally produces lameness : a cure is generally performed by firing and blistering. I once saw a cure of a ring worm effected, by flaying off the skin round the worm, and then placing a thin piece of copper around on the top of the worm, bringing the skin over the copper, and binding the copper fast to the affected part—by this method verdigris was produced, and the worm finally eaten off : the copper was taken off every two or three days, and wiped clean and replaced again. But by whatever means the cure is attempted, or performed, it will require that the horse rests for six months—and he should be turned to pasture, if the season of the year will permit.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### *Of the Grease.*

THE grease may be considered as a disorder of the vessels, as well as the blood. Swellings of the legs of horses may be accounted for, from a partial stagnation of the blood and juices in the finer vessels, where the circulation is most languid—and when there is a want of proper exercise, and a proper muscular compression on the vessels, to push forward the returning blood, and propel the inert and half stagnated fluids through their vessels: the blood in such cases cannot so easily ascend as descend, as a greater quantity is brought by the arteries, than can be returned by the veins. Considering the grease in this point of view, it may be looked on as a local disorder, and is often an attendant of some distemper—such as the farcy, yellows, or dropsy: and should the horse be afflicted with either of these disorders, they must be first cured, before the grease can be removed; but proper care should be taken to cut off the hair close round the legs and fetlock joints, and to keep them properly clean.

When it is first discovered that a horse's heels swell in the stable, and go down on his being exer-

cised, care should be taken to wash them clean, every time he comes in, with Castile soap suds, chamber lye, or vinegar and water, which, with good rubbing, will bring down the swelling : this method of treatment will often remove the complaint. But should the legs continue to swell, they should be bathed two or three times a day, with good old vinegar—and a bandage of linen or flannel should be bound round the legs, about the width of three or four fingers—and if rags dipped in the vinegar are placed under the bandage for a few days, they will be of great service ; by this method the bandage will support the vessels of the legs, till they have recovered their proper tone. When I have found it difficult to remove the swelling of the legs, which often happens, I have had a pair of stockings made, of strong canvas or leather, and laced them tight around the legs—and washed the legs two or three times a day with the following wash :

Rectified spirits of wine, four ounces—dissolve in it half an ounce of camphire, and add one quart of the best vinegar.

This complaint is looked on as trifling, by those who are unacquainted with the disorder ; but I have many times found it difficult to conquer : and was I to go through the whole of the practice that I have pursued in this disorder, it would tire the patience of the reader, and probably be of little use to him. I therefore shall conclude, by recom-

mending the following diuretick balls, to be given one every morning, for three or four weeks successively :

Take of yellow rosin, four ounces ; salt of tartar, and sal prunella, of each, two ounces ; Venice soap, half a pound ; oil of juniper, half an ounce—make into balls of two ounces weight.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### *Of Scratches.*

THE disorder that is commonly called scratches, and is found in the heels of horses, has much affinity with the grease, and is often a concomitant of the same distemper. When a horse is found to have cracks or scratches in his heels, the best method in the first place to be pursued, is to apply poultices made of turnips and linseeds, with a little common turpentine and hog's lard, to bring on a discharge: this being done, and a suppuration brought on for a short time, the cracks may then be dried up, with the wash that is recommended in the preceding chapter. It is best after this to keep the heels supple, and softened with currier's dubbing, or neat's foot oil: this will soften, or prevent the skin from cracking, in the same manner that it preserves leather. When the sores are deep, and prove obstinate, use the following ointment—for no foundation for a cure can be laid, until the wounds are cleansed at the bottom:

Venice turpentine, four ounces; quicksilver, one ounce—incorporated well together, by rubbing it some time; add to it sheep's suet and honey, of each, two ounces.

If the heels are anointed with mercurial ointment, after the wounds are thoroughly cleansed, this will often make a final cure. Great care should be taken to wash the legs clean with soap suds, after the horse has come in from a journey. During this treatment, the horse should have two or three diuretick balls given him in a week.

## APPENDIX.

I SHALL now proceed to recommend what are called alteratives, or altering medicines—such as have no immediate operation, but gradually gain upon the constitution of the horse, by changing the humours, or juices, from a state of distemperature, to health, and accelerate the blood. The best, and principal medicines for this purpose, are, nitre, sulphur, and crude antimony, finely powdered: for this purpose—

Take half a pound of nitre, powdered fine, and half a pound of sulphur; two ounces of crude antimony, powdered—mix together, and give two ounces a day, for three or four days together—after which, omit for a day or two, and then repeat again, giving or mixing it in the horse's feed.

### *An Alterative Ball.*

Take cinnabar of antimony, gum guaiacum, and Castile soap, of each, half a pound; salt of tartar, four ounces; and an ounce and a half of camphire—give a ball about the size of a pullet's egg, two or three times a week.

*A Gentle Purge for a Thick Wind.*

Galbanum, ammoniacum, and asafoetida, of each, two drachms; succotorine aloes, six drachms; saffron, one drachm; honey sufficient to make a ball.

Give this ball—and when worked off, I have given the following balls, by which the horse has been finally restored to his perfect wind :

Tar, one ounce ; aniseeds, powdered, one ounce ; nitre, one ounce ; and honey, one ounce. It should be remembered, that medicines of this kind should be continued a considerable time, in obstinate cases.

What is called a sanderack, is a cleft in the hoof, and is mostly found on or near the inside heels of the fore feet, beginning at the coronet, and running down to the bottom of the foot, in a straight line downwards, and generally causes lameness ; and at times will bring on a quittor, or false quarter, which is dangerous. When a sanderack is formed, the hoof mostly raises up on each side of the crack, which should be rasped down, and the crack opened on each side, with a knife or razing iron : and the best method is to fire, by drawing a stroke at the coronet, or top of the crack ; and afterwards apply wound ointment, made of Venice turpentine, hog's lard, and a little tar, with a small portion of verdigris, finely powdered, stirred into it. This must be continued for some days—and a bar shoe should be put on the foot, so as not to rest on the affected part, or heel of the foot ; and the foot should like-



wise be continued to be stopped at the bottom, with fresh cow dung. When the dressing is left off, and the horse does not go lame, the foot should be oiled round the coronet, every day, with neat's foot oil : this will cause the foot to grow down faster, and in a few months the crack will grow out, and disappear.

Nicking, docking, and cropping, are surgical operations, and require both care and judgment in the performance. Nicking is performed, by cutting asunder the sinews that are on each side of the bottom of the horse's tail, in three or four places, leaving a space of about two or three inches between each cut: but it should be observed, not to make the first cut too nigh the fundament, as there is most danger after the nicking has been performed, and the blood stopped for eight or ten hours. The wounds should be dressed with drawing ointment, such as basilicon, &c. in order to bring on a discharge or suppuration, of good thick white matter ; but all horses should be physicked and bled before nicking, to bring their blood into a good state. It is not attended with much difficulty to nick a horse, but it is often attended with trouble to cure him. The operator should always have the horse under his own immediate care, and not suffer any one to meddle with the tail—as many horses have died by the operation, although they have been committed to the most experienced surgeons and farriers. When the tail is put to the pulleys, the

weights should not be too heavy—and the tail should be let down about twice a day, and examined, to see if it discharges properly ; and, at the same time, it should be washed with cold water, or sugar of lead water. The horse should be kept on low diet, and exercised once a day, and have nitre given him in his messes or water.

Docking, is taking off part of a horse's tail ; which at times is performed, by laying the tail on a block of wood, and striking it off with a chissel—or by placing an axe on a block, and laying the tail on the edge of the axe, and striking the tail with a mallet—but this must both bruise and cut the tail at the same time : but the best instrument for the purpose, is somewhat like a pair of shears, with long handles, only the rivet is at one end, and the knife falls into a groove. When the amputation is performed, the tail should be well held up, before the burning iron is applied, which at times will cause the horse to carry a good, or high tail, so that he will not require nicking : it will be best to keep the tail washed, a few days after docking, with cold water. If it should be found difficult to stop the blood, although the tail has been seared with the hot iron ; with a little powdered rosin melted on with the burning iron, there may be strong twine thread tied round tight, about an inch from the end, but this must be taken off in a few hours, or it will cause the tail to swell, and be inflamed.

Cropping, is best performed with a pair of irons, called cropping irons, as they will best cause the ears to represent nature. Young practitioners who have cropped horses, have been alarmed to observe the outside skin of the ear drop away from the gristle, and likewise by the flowing of blood; but nature has constituted the blood as a balsam, so that nothing should be applied after the ears are taken off, and the skin will return to its proper place, without any further trouble.

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*A valuable proved Receipt for the Human Being, for the Pleurisy, or pain in the back or side.*

Take half an ounce of liquid laudanum; half an ounce of balsam capivi; half an ounce of spirits of turpentine; and half an ounce of sweet spirits of nitre: the whole to be mixed together in a bottle, and thirty or forty drops to be taken at any time, on a little sugar. A little warm gin and water should be drank, just after taking the drops.

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It is customary to give a motto with a work, taken from some celebrated author: I therefore consulted several, but could find none to suit my own mind: in consequence of which, I composed one myself—how far it will be found to answer the work, I shall leave the public to judge.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

In the Copy-Right, second line, read *eleventh* for  
“twelfth.”





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